

THE VOTE,
OCTOBER 13, 1916.
ONE PENNY.

The Country in Danger!

C. DESPARD.

THE VOTE

THE ORGAN OF THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE

VOL. XIV. No. 364.

(Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper and transmissible through the post in the United Kingdom at the newspaper rate of postage, but to Canada and Newfoundland at the Magazine rate.)

FRIDAY, OCT. 13, 1916.

Edited by C. DESPARD.

OBJECTS: To secure for Women the Parliamentary vote as it is or may be granted to men; to use the power thus obtained to establish equality of rights and opportunities between the sexes and to promote the social and industrial well-being of the community.

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS.

ELECTORAL REFORM CONFERENCE.

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND NAMES.

THE DUTY OF SUFFRAGISTS - - - C. Nina Boyle.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PRESS COMMENTS.

THE COUNTRY IN DANGER! - - - C. Despard.

"HATE'S COMING OF AGE" - - - Laurence Housman
THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S.A. AT A SUFFRAGE CONVENTION.

NEWS FROM AFAR. WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

OUR POINT OF VIEW. BRANCH NOTES, &c.

THE ELECTORAL REFORM CONFERENCE.

The Electoral Reform Conference is now in existence. On October 10 Mr. Bonar Law announced its terms of reference and membership. The terms of reference are:—

Reform of the franchise.

Basis for redistribution of seats.

Reform of the system of the registration of electors.

Method of elections and the manner in which the costs of elections should be borne.

The members, numbering 30, include 5 peers, 11 Unionists, 9 Liberals, 3 Labour representatives, 3 Nationalists, and 1 O'Brienite, and are:—

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Marquess of Salisbury, Earl Grey, Viscount Bryce, Viscount Gladstone, Lord Burnham.

UNIONIST.—Sir Frederick Banbury, Sir William Bull, Colonel James Craig, Colonel Page Croft, Sir R. Finlay, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Sir J. Larmor, Mr. D. Macmaster, Mr. B. E. Peto, Sir Harry Samuel, Mr. E. R. Turton.

LIBERAL.—Sir Ryland Adkins, Sir John Bethell, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. W. H. Dickinson, Mr. George Lambert, Mr. W. M. R. Pringle, Mr. MacCullum Scott, Sir John Simon, Mr. Aneurin Williams.

LABOUR.—Mr. F. W. Goldstone, Mr. Stephen Walsh, Mr. G. J. Wardle.

NATIONALIST.—Mr. J. Mooney, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. T. Scanlan.

INDEPENDENT NATIONALIST.—Mr. Maurice Healy.

The Speaker will preside over the Conference, which was to hold its first meeting last Wednesday morning at the office of the Local Government Board.

The Duty of Suffragists.

Parliament has reassembled. The people's interests are once more thrown into the melting-pot of the mixed assembly that calls itself representative. But Parliament lives out of touch with what it so queerly "represents"; Parliament seems to have so little sense of reality; Parliament is so supremely satisfied with the sound of its voice that it hardly succeeds in impressing the impartial observer as a real or a live thing.

Nevertheless, Parliament is busy. It has got to vote "credit" by the hundred million. We would wager that few of those Parliamentarians who hear the dizzy millions reeled off have any but the vaguest notion where they come from! Parliament has to "win the war," after many open confessions that it knows little about the war, and has even less control than knowledge of those who are waging it. Parliament has to give its attention to the

RŌSRŌMA TEA

This is a blend of the highest class Darjeeling, with fine Indian Flowery Orange Pekoe.

ROBERT JACKSON & CO.,

THE FINEST QUALITY, 4s. 6d. per lb.

It is an exquisite afternoon tea, being absolutely free from suspicion of tannin; it is eminently suitable for invalids and dyspeptics, while its delicate aroma and perfect flavour commend it to all judges of fine tea.

HOUSEHOLD is more economical than ordinary tea, as a much smaller quantity is required to give the best result.

2s. 9d. per lb.

Free Sample on application. Sole Proprietors:

By Appointment to His Majesty the King.

171 & 172, PICCADILLY, London, W.

Phone Regent 1383.

pensions scandals. It has done so many times before; the result has been that the scandals grow and spread. Parliament has to pacify, quell, or defy Ireland, never having succeeded in doing any of these things. And Parliament, besides all these great and stirring tasks, has to turn its great mind to the contentious and most thorny question of electoral reform.

The Speaker—august personage—has replaced Mr. Walter Long as the presiding genius of the Electoral Reform Conference. That is, he first nominates his Conference, and then dominates it.

It behoves all suffragists, on getting the list of names, to impress by word of mouth or by letter on each member the necessity of considering the removal of the sex barrier over and apart from any other form of readjustment. The sex barrier is the worst anomaly of all the anomalies of our voting system; with that removed, there would be something like real representation of the people. Suffragist M.P.'s taking part in the Conference should be urged and exhorted to concentrate on this anomaly, and by an act of justice unconnected in any way with party interests, make some reparation, however tardy, for the long delay, the frequent betrayals, the intolerance and the prejudice, of which Parliament has been guilty towards the women on whom the nation depends.

C. NINA BOYLE.

The following correspondence has passed between the Local Government Board and the Women's Freedom League:—

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.
October 6, 1916.

DEAR MADAM,—I am desired by Mr. Long to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant with reference to the forthcoming Conference on Electoral Reform, and to state that he has received from the Speaker of the House of Commons Miss Sidley's letter of the 4th instant on the same subject.

Mr. Long wishes me to say that it is quite obvious that to admit representatives of particular societies to the Conference would involve the consideration of the claims of a very large number of societies. The Government considered that if the Conference included Members of both Houses of Parliament who are in favour of Woman Suffrage, the presentation of the views of special societies could be left to witnesses whom the Conference could hear if this was deemed desirable.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) F. L. TURNER.

Miss Nina Boyle.

Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.
October 9, 1916.

F. L. TURNER, Esq., Local Government Board,
Whitehall, S.W.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of yours of October 6, for which I beg leave to thank you.

I trust, in view of the opinion expressed by Mr. Long, that those in charge of the organisation of the Conference on Electoral Reform will make a special point of seeing that witnesses representing the various bodies organised to deal with the representation of the people shall be called to give evidence as to the point of view of their societies. The matter is so important, and affects so profoundly the interests of an immense number of people, that my Society trusts there is going to be no stinting of time and trouble in dealing with the matter.

In the question of suffragist Members of Parliament sitting on the Conference, my League feels very strongly that care should be taken in selecting these members that they should be gentlemen who are concerned primarily with the abolition of the sex barrier as a matter of justice and the plain question of votes for women on the same qualifications as men.—Yours faithfully,

C. NINA BOYLE.

PRESS COMMENTS.

The Nation considers that the Conference "looks promising," but adds: "There are some dangers on the woman's question. The Conference will contain one or two 'antis,' who will do their best to give its report a merely academic interest. The other peril will be that it will fail adequately to represent the great conversion that has come with the war. It is said, for example, that the Liberal delegates will be equally divided between the 'pros' and the 'antis.' That would be to misrepresent the Liberal state of mind on the suffrage, which is much nearer a five to one vote in its favour."

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

The Yorkshire Post (London Correspondent) writes: "A good deal of money is about to be spent in connection with the newly formed National Council for Adult Suffrage, which is organised very largely by pacifists, who are lukewarm towards the war, and hope that to give votes to women would bring about a Parliamentary majority for pacifist principles. They do not expect now to carry the entire Labour Party with them, although the Labour Members of Parliament will be asked to support amendments of the Bill embodying adult suffrage. 'One gun one vote' is the cry of the extremist Imperialists. This National Council would admit all the adult soldiers to the franchise, not as soldiers but as adults in the State: and both sections favour votes for women."

The Evening Standard perpetrates the following blunder: "The women's leaders have made it clear that they do not wish to prejudice the general case for electoral reform by their own claims," but adds, "at the same time it has to be recognised that nothing short of honest dealing with the question will prevent the recurrence of a sex war at a time when the nation has quite other business to monopolise its energies."

The Labour Leader points out that: "The claims of women will be urged, and support for woman suffrage is likely to come from quarters which have hitherto been hostile to the proposal. It is difficult to say to what extent the experience of the last two years has altered the views of old opponents of votes for women. Expressions of admiration for the great work women have done in helping on the war, when coming from old-time anti-suffragists, must not be too readily accepted as evidence of conversion to woman suffrage. The real advance which has been made is more in the direction of former supporters of a moderate measure of woman's suffrage now being willing to accept a much wider scheme. There will be a strong body of Members of Parliament who will make every effort to get votes for soldiers, but who will not give the vote to women unless it becomes clear that the one cannot be secured without the other."

Manchester's Message.

In view of the declared intention of the Government to deal with the question of the extension or alteration of the Franchise and Registration laws after the resumption of Parliament, a preliminary Conference of representatives of Manchester Suffrage societies, including the Manchester Women's Suffrage Society, the Manchester Federation, the United Suffragists, Women's Freedom League, Church League for Women's Suffrage, Free Church League for Women's Suffrage, Manchester Men's League, and Northern Men's Federation, was held in the Onward-buildings on October 2 with a view to securing a united expression of Manchester Suffrage opinion as to the measure or measures deemed most conducive to the national welfare. The Conference was presided over by Professor F. E. Weiss, M.Sc., D.Sc., who observed that the present revival of activity in regard to the vote was not of Suffrage initiation; but when the Government itself proposed to alter the basis of the franchise, and when even Mr. Asquith insisted that women deserved inclusion, it behoved them to be on the alert to help the Government to a satisfactory solution. Various tentative resolutions were drawn up and discussed for reference to the parent bodies, conveners appointed, and the necessary steps taken for the submission by each society of definite resolutions for the agenda of a final Conference at an early date.

National Council for Adult Suffrage.

Mr. H. W. Nevins (chairman), Miss Margaret Bondfield, Mr. Fred Bramley, Miss K. D. Courtney, Miss Llewelyn Davies, Mr. A. G. Gardiner, Mr. George Lansbury, Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, Miss Mary Longman, Miss Mary R. Macarthur, Miss Catherine Marshall, Mr. H. W. Massingham, Mr. J. S. Middleton, Miss A. M. Roydon, Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. H. M. Swanwick, and Mr. Robert Smillie. The office of the new Council is at 27, Chancery-lane, London, E.C.

COME TO THE POLITICAL MEETING.

Caxton Hall, Friday, October 20th, 7.30 p.m.

Every reader of THE VOTE who is in London next Friday should be present. The speakers will be Mrs. Despard, the Rev. W. Major Scott, M.A., Mrs. Tanner, and Mrs. Whetton, and the chair will be taken by Miss Eunice Murray at 7.30 p.m. We shall be specially pleased to welcome the Rev. Major Scott, who recently preached such an admirable sermon at Croydon, upholding the complete equality of opportunity of women with men in both Church and State. Come and help to make our meeting a great success! Admission is free. Bring your friends!

THEY SUPPORT US!

Women's Freedom League.

Offices: 144, HIGH HOLBORN, W.C.

Telegrams—"DESPARD, MUSEUM 1429, LONDON."

Telephone—MUSEUM 1429.

Colours—GREEN, WHITE AND GOLD.

President—Mrs. C. DESPARD. Hon. Treasurer—Dr. E. KNIGHT.
Hon. Organising Secretary—Miss EUNICE MURRAY.
Hon. Head of Vote Sales Department—Miss ALIX M. CLARK.
Hon. Head of Literature Department—Miss MARGARET HODGE.
Political Organiser—Miss C. NINA BOYLE.
Secretary—Miss F. A. UNDERWOOD.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: W.F.L. LONDON AND SUBURBS.



DARE TO BE FREE.

Admission free.

Friday, October 20.—Political Meeting, Caxton Hall, Speakers: Mrs. Despard, The Rev. W. Major Scott, M.A., Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Whetton. Chair: Miss Eunice Murray 7.30 p.m. Admission free. CROYDON, Sewing Party, 9, Morland-avenue, 3-5 p.m.

Tuesday, October 24.—L.B.C. SEWING MEETING, 144, High Holborn, W.C., 3-7 p.m.

Wednesday, October 25.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Nevins, "The Future of Women," and Mrs. Mustard. Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood. Hostess: Miss Franklin. Tea 4.30 (6d.). Admission free.

Thursday, October 26.—L.B.C. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 144, High Holborn, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, November 1.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speakers: Mrs. Zangwill, "Picking up the Pieces," and Mrs. Corner. Chair: Mrs. Mustard. Hostess: Miss Franklin. Tea 4.30 (6d.). Admission free.

Saturday, November 4.—LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL JUMBLE SALE, Tolmers-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.

Sunday, November 5.—RECITAL of "Fairy Tales—Old and New" by Miss Raleigh, accompanied by Folk Songs by Miss Anne Squire, at the Bijou Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C., 4 p.m. Tea served at 3.15—3.50 (6d.). Tickets 1s. and 6d., from W.F.L. Office.

Wednesday, November 8.—PUBLIC MEETING, Caxton Hall, Westminster, S.W., 3 p.m. Speaker: Miss Margaret Hodge, "How Anti-Suffragists are made in our Nurseries." Chair: Miss F. A. Underwood.

THE MINERVA CAFE, 144, High Holborn, W.C. Open every day except Sunday to men and women. Vegetarian lunches from 12 to 2 p.m.; teas from 3 to 6 p.m. Smoking-room. The large room is available for meetings. Apply to Mrs. Fisher.

WOMEN'S FREEDOM LEAGUE SETTLEMENT, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W. 1d. and 4d. meals, weekdays at noon. Children's Guest House and Milk Depot for Nursing Mothers.

THE DESPARD ARMS, 123, Hampstead Road, N.W. (five minutes' walk from Maple's). Open to all for refreshments (dinners and suppers from 6d.) and recreation. Weekdays, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, 4 to 10 p.m. Bedrooms for women at work.

PROVINCES.

Saturday, October 14.—CHESTER. Open-air Meeting, Market-square, 1.15 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Sproson. Chair: Miss Alix M. Clark. OSWESTRY. Open-air Meeting, Bailey Head, 4 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Sproson. Chair: Miss A. M. Clark.

Tuesday, October 17.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Sewing Party, Suffrage Club, 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 18.—SOUTHSEA. Work Party, 17, Lombard-street, 3-7 p.m.

Thursday, October 19.—IPSWICH. Sewing Meeting, 22, Queen-street, 3 p.m. READING. Opening Branch Meeting, The Recreation Club, Oxford-road, 7.30 p.m. Speakers: Miss Anna Munro and Miss Eunice Murray. Music, refreshments, collection.

Saturday, October 21.—CHESTER. Open-air Meeting, Market-square, 1.15 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans. OSWESTRY. Open-air Meeting, Bailey Head, 4 p.m. Speaker: Miss Dorothy Evans.

Tuesday, October 24.—MIDDLESBROUGH. Sewing Party, Suffrage Club, 231A, The Arcade, Linthorpe-road, 3 p.m.

Thursday, October 26.—IPSWICH. Sewing Meeting, 22, Queen-street, 3 p.m.

SCOTLAND.
Wednesday, October 18.—EDINBURGH. Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road, 8 p.m. Miss Whalley, "Welfare Work."

GREEN, WHITE, AND GOLD FAIR.

Members and friends are reminded that the Fair is not very far ahead now, and the Fair Committee hopes that all are doing their utmost. The secretary will be very glad to receive promises of goods and money. The following is a list of stalls and stallholders up to date:—

GENERAL—Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Oliver.
WHITE—Mrs. Cobden Sanderson and Mrs. Whetton.

OLDE CURIOSITIE SHOPPE—Mrs. Abbot.
TOY—Mrs. Mockford, Mrs. Lindus and Mrs. Aaron.

HOME-MADE PROVISIONS—Mrs. Catmur, Mrs. Terry, Mrs. Thomson and Miss Triplett.

COMFORTS FOR SUFFERERS IN THE WAR—
"VOTE" (in memory of Mrs. Snow)—Miss Snow, Miss Holman, Miss A. A. Smith and Mrs. Tritton.
LONDON BRANCHES COUNCIL—Mrs. Holmes and Mrs. Mustard.

LITERATURE—Miss Margaret Hodge.

HANDKERCHIEF—Miss Sidley.

MONTGOMERY BOROUGHS—Miss Clark.

The list is not yet complete; other names will follow.

The following societies have agreed to take a stall each, the proceeds of which will be devoted to their own funds:—Friends of Armenia; Nine Elms Settlement; United Suffragists; Women's Market Garden Supply; Independent W.S.P.U., and Suffragettes of the W.S.P.U.

The entertainments are again in the capable hands of Mrs. Corner, while our old friend Mrs. Fisher once more takes charge of the refreshments.

Send your parcels early to the Women's Freedom League, 144, High Holborn, W.C.

London Branches Council.

In order to raise funds for the winter's work, the Council is holding a jumble sale on Saturday, November 4, at Tolmer's-square Institute, Drummond-street, Hampstead-road, N.W. Two things are essential to its success—a plentiful supply of articles for sale and many people to help with the sale of them. Old clothes, boots, pieces of carpet, furniture, and household utensils all find eager purchasers. Any of these may be sent to Mrs. Fisher, 144, High Holborn, and will be most gratefully received. We are most anxious that this sale should be a great success, as we are engaging an organiser to work for the Fair. Miss Mitchell (hon. sec. pro tem.) will be glad to receive names of helpers. If members will volunteer, and not wait to be asked, their offers will be greatly appreciated.

Will any member of the League willing to undertake the sale of THE VOTE at the Caxton Hall Wednesday afternoon meetings kindly write to or call on "The Vote" Secretary, at the Office, 144, High Holborn?

The Lavender Laundry

The most delicate LACES, MUSLINS, LAWNS, SILKS, SHIRTS, COLLARS
Dressed in an altogether Superior Style Equal to New.

STRAFFORD RD., ACTON, W. Telephone: 822 Chiswick.
This Laundry is Governed Entirely by a Woman.

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1212.

THE VOTE.

Proprietors:—THE MINERVA PUBLISHING Co., Ltd.
Offices:—144, High Holborn, W.C.

FRIDAY, October 13th, 1916.

NOTICE.—Letters should be addressed as follows:—
To the Editor—on all editorial matters.
To the Advertising Manager—on advertising.
To the Secretary—on all other business, including Vote orders, printing, and merchandise, etc.
Telephone: MUSEUM 1429.
Telegrams: "DESPARD, Museum 1429, London."

EDITORIAL.

The Editor is responsible for unsigned articles only. Articles, paragraphs, or cuttings dealing with matters of interest to women generally will be welcomed. Every effort will be made to return unsuitable MSS. if a stamped addressed envelope be enclosed, but the Editor cannot be responsible in case of loss.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE.

At Home and Abroad ... post free, 6/6 per annum.
"THE VOTE" may be obtained through all Newsagents and at the Bookstalls of Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

THE COUNTRY IN DANGER!

More than two years ago—as we look back it seems like a century—the cry went forth, "The country in danger!" and all of us know the result. A naval nation with a small standing army became in an extraordinarily brief space of time a military nation. Recruits poured in so swiftly that there were moments when it was almost impossible to deal with them. Had there been organisations able to tackle the industrial side of the situation as the military side was dealt with, there can be little doubt, when we consider the splendid human material that was thrown into that first remarkable leap forward, that the nation would have shown a better result. The danger which threatened us was invasion by a foreign foe. It was a tangible danger. Those who, since the war began, have visited any of the invaded countries—France, Belgium, or Serbia—those who have suffered at home from the hideous air-raids, can, to some small extent, realise the meaning of that danger, and understand its effect upon all who are subjected to it.

We wish to impress upon the men and women who love their nation that to-day it is faced with a menace which, though intangible, is infinitely more real than any peril of war on their own shores. Again and again great nations have been overrun by foreign foes; the tide of invasion has come and gone; but, though they may have been crippled for a generation, these nations have pulled themselves together and recovered their strength and their prestige. This other danger, which threatened us before the war, which threatens us with greater urgency now, does not come and go like an army on the march. It is with us always, and unless we all—men and women alike who love their country—are prepared to use every resource at our command, to face sacrifice with courage and steadfastness, to give up old conventions, age-long prejudices and traditions, as well as many of the material things we may prize, there is little hope for our nation.

What, then, is this intangible danger? It has been spoken of under many forms by our own League and by other societies and individuals when they have tried to draw aside the veil with which we hide ourselves from ourselves. But it may be summed up in two ominous words: RACE DETERIORATION.

Let us look at a few facts and figures. "Men, more men, increased man-power, no matter what happens to it, so that this war may come to a quick end!" That is the present demand. Set against it the fact that infant mortality, which was

phenomenally high, has increased, and that the birth-rate has decreased. We suppose it is known by our statesmen, though not perhaps fully realised, that we cannot have babies without mothers. During the three years of the Boer War, when 25,000 men were sacrificed in battle, 15,000 women were sacrificed in child-birth; and, beyond the shadow of a doubt, many of these deaths might have been averted. Child-bearing under healthy conditions is not dangerous to life.

Further, it is well-known to those in authority that at the beginning of the war thousands of young men were rejected as unfit. That these have been taken since does not alter the facts. In the House of Commons Mr. Philip Snowden gave case after case of men dying or being permanently injured in health by being compelled to join the colours. Healthy men are needed, not only for the Army and Navy, but for industry. It is absolutely certain that we shall not have either strong men or strong women if we overtax our children. Yet in the "poor" districts, where our hard workers and by far the larger number of our soldiers and sailors have their homes, pure milk, wholesome bread, fresh fruit and vegetables, are almost unattainable, and if the mothers go outside their own districts to buy these things they find the prices prohibitive.

Again, since the war began, thousands of little boys and many girls have left school before the legal age, so that they may work for the country. Not only so, but first-rate schoolmasters with fine records behind them have been forced from their admirable service because it is not considered by some wooden-headed tribunals that teaching is work of national importance.

We hear from many quarters that while adult crime has decreased during these years of war, there has been a serious increase in juvenile crime. In a letter to *The Times* of October 5, we read that in London "the number of young persons brought before the courts increased from 1,304 to 2,005 for three months this year as compared with the corresponding three months of last year." "Petty larceny" looms large amongst the offences of these juveniles. It appears that to ambuscade convoys on their way to the Front and take toll of the supplies is one of the favourite amusements of boys on dark nights.

It is difficult to refrain from sympathy with these audacious little adventurers, but in a few years' time we may realise how heavy is the toll that has been exacted from them and their sisters. In the meanwhile, if no serious attempt has been made to bring justice and wisdom into our social arrangements, the war-profiters, the labour-exploiters, and the statesmen who are so chary of interfering with persons of that description, may find themselves face to face with a menace to which the fear of foreign invasion will be as nothing. Seventeen hundred and eighty-nine is not so long ago as to be forgotten.

A nation may deteriorate morally as well as physically. Indeed, it may eventually be understood that the moral and the physical are more closely related than we imagine. We hear of an army losing its *morale*. When does that happen? When the physical conditions are bad; when hunger, thirst, cold, and consequent illness have robbed the men of their strength. We do not pretend that morality—the health of the spirit—is the necessary accompaniment of strength—the health of the body. But we do say that to sap the physical strength of an individual is, more often than not, to lay him open to temptations which never assail the strong. Look back over the immediate past. Remember how one by one the ancient safeguards to the people's liberties are being taken

away. Would a strong and healthy nation, conscious of its own power and dignity, have submitted tamely to all these encroachments? We think not. The strength of the nation has been sapped in the past; the deadly process is going on and will go on, until the eyes of the people are opened, until—men and women—we demand and obtain our human rights.

"The country in danger!" Never, in the course of human history, had such a cry been heard before. From thousands of our people it is going forth; and it does not come from those who have been hurt. This is no blind hitting out of the injured against those who have caused the injury. It is much more. It was said by a recent writer: "The physical misery of the world's disinherited has become the spiritual misery of the world's heritors." That is what makes the cry so urgent. Neither individual nor class, but outraged humanity is lifting up its voice and asking for redemption.

Once, years ago, at a big anti-vivisection meeting in the old St. James's Hall, when the late Canon Wilberforce, in his peculiarly thrilling voice, was telling about the tortured animals, there rose from the body of the hall in a woman's voice the cry, "Don't! We can't bear it!" For an instant the speaker, overcome by emotion, paused; then his answer rang out, "*They must!*"

That is just it. They—little children, defrauded of life or dwarfed in body and mind, women robbed of honour and joy and opportunity to carry on their own work worthily, exploited and used-up workers—may be passive; we cannot.

Those in authority and the millions to whom they look for support may listen or refrain from listening. On them the responsibility rests. We, the women of Great Britain, tell them what we know. "The country is in danger. It is for us, working with you, to save it."

C. DESPARD.

The President of the United States at a Suffrage Convention.

"I have come to fight with you!" This was the message President Wilson brought to the recent National Suffrage Convention in Atlantic City. For the first time a President of the United States spoke as a suffragist to a suffrage meeting. "The woman's movement has not only come to stay," he declared, "but has come with conquering power."

NEWS FROM AFAR.

The October number of *Jus Suffragii* contains, as usual, an immense amount of information of vital interest to suffragists in all countries; each month it increases its importance as a link between the nations and a wonderful record of the work of women, some enfranchised and others at various stages on the road to the goal. From this month's number we take the following interesting facts:—

Finland.

In the recently elected Finnish Diet, there are 24 women, that is, 12 per cent. of the total membership. Among the successful women candidates are Dr. Tekla Hultin, who has many friends in this country, Miss Anna Furuhejm, who is the second Vice-President of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance, Miss Vera Hjelt, who has been for many years connected with education, and Miss Mina Silanpää, who organised the domestic servants of the country, and founded and edits a paper in their interests. These women have been returned to Parliament at successful elections for a number of years.

Denmark.

The women of Denmark will probably be called upon to exercise their recently acquired political franchise on a question of foreign policy and international relations. There is likely to be a referendum on the sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States of America, and the voters will be those enfranchised under the new constitution. It is likely also that the Bill before Parliament fixing an early date for the coming into force of the new constitution will be accepted; an immediate election will then follow.

Iceland.

Last August men and women voted for the first time under the new constitution in a proportional election for six members of the Upper House. Mrs. Briet Asmundssen was the only woman candidate; although she received the largest number of votes, she was not, under the proportional system, elected, but was next below the successful candidates. An election to the Lower House is to be held this month, and a number of women candidates are standing.

Russia.

Professor Paul Milyoukoff, member of the Russian Duma and leader of the Cadet Party in Russia—the party which has put woman suffrage on its programme—has stated that the work of women during this time of national strain would contribute materially to their enfranchisement.

Italy.

A long article tells of the varied and important work which the Italian women are now doing, despite masculine prejudice. The following official tribute is paid to them: "Although it is only two months since we began to employ women, and although those called upon to work have been chosen from the country women and the housewives, we are glad to be able to give the assurance that they have all immediately proved fit for the most diverse kinds of work. The feminine element, besides assimilating technical skill with un hoped-for rapidity, has at once shown a certain keenness to excel, a great desire to emulate men in their work."

Egypt and Votes for Women—Eventually.

The Sultan of Egypt has just expressed the belief that his country under British protection will rapidly come to the front. He declared himself a great believer in education as a means of establishing good government, and a strong advocate of education for Egyptian women. He means to establish compulsory education for girls and boys. "I believe," he said, "that education is essential for women. It is the woman who trains the child for his duties in life, and who will influence the coming generation. If we are to have good government the young must be trained in the right way. My earnest hope is that in time women will have a larger influence on the affairs of government." It looks as though Votes for Women loomed ahead on the Egyptian horizon!

No Women Lawyers in India—yet.

A full bench of the Calcutta High Court, consisting of the Chief Justice (Sir Lancelot Sanderson) and Justices Ashutosh Mukerji, Chitty, Teunon, and Chaudhuri, have, after consideration, refused the application of Miss Regina Guha, a graduate in law of the Calcutta University, to be admitted as a pleader. The Court held that, as the law stands, the admission of men only as pleaders is permitted.

SERBIA IN PEACE AND WAR.

For vivid pictures of Quiet Village Life and of the Tragedy of the Long Trek read Mrs. O. M. ALDRIDGE'S book:

'THE RETREAT FROM SERBIA'

Published by the MINERVA PUBLISHING CO.,
144, HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.

Price 2s. 6d.; post free 2s. 9d.

"OUR WEDNESDAYS."

Mr. Laurence Housman on "Hate's Coming of Age."

A large audience at the Caxton Hall on October 4 testified to the interest aroused in the re-opening of "Our Wednesdays" and the attraction of the speakers announced for the first meeting, Mrs. Despard and Mr. Laurence Housman. Unfortunately, our President was unable to speak owing to loss of voice, and Mrs. E. M. Moore, who presided, expressed the sympathy of all and their hopes for speedy recovery. Mrs. Moore, who received a cordial welcome, said how great a pleasure it was to take the chair for Mr. Housman, whose literary work made a strong appeal to her as well as his undaunted championship of woman suffrage. Mr. Housman declared at the outset that the title of his address, "Hate's Coming of Age," referred quite as much to peace as to war time. Hate came of age in human institutions much earlier than love; it had not had time to grow only during the two years of war, but had been growing long before. The real test of love or hate is: What use do we make of power? Has organised power, as its main aim, the development of those it controls? If not, there is the beginning of hate—a relation of jealousy, suspicion, and oppression between governors and governed. Power always claims to protect, guide, and discipline for their own good those whom it controls, but even if the claim be disproved it maintains the necessity of the system; prestige again and again prevents even-handed justice being done—for example, in dealing with native races. If power is despotically imposed for the benefit of the governors and not of the governed, there hate is bred. Has the history of power at home, held in trust by one class, always meant the well-being of the class without power? Was the stealing of common lands by landed interests intended for the good of the community? Has industrial capitalism safeguarded the interests of labour? Has the male monopoly of power worked out lovingly for women? Does not our prison system often make a man a worse citizen? The old-world folly of States and Governments, said Mr. Housman, is that when they have allowed things to get on to a bad basis they dare not change it, but seek to prevent wrong on that basis. Slavery, penal laws against labour, the subjection and non-education of women rest on that bad basis. If power in time of peace cannot be trusted to deal with neighbours, how can it in war time deal justly with enemies? "In war, honour and power get badly mixed," said Mr. Housman. "War is the hardest test of all, for it is only justified if it does good to you and to the enemy. Modern conditions of war make this harder, but it is modern peace conditions which have made modern war."

Mrs. Moore, whose remarks throughout the meeting were much enjoyed, conveyed to Mr. Housman the thanks of all present for his thought-provoking address. There was a good response to Miss Underwood's appeal for financial help for the Women's Freedom League. The experiment of tea at the end of the meeting proved quite successful and will be continued.

OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Parliament and Woman Suffrage.

Experience has shown that it is not wise to allow the most faithful friends of the women's cause in the House of Commons to remain long without a reminder of the movement and of the necessity for them to bestir themselves, since members of Parliament are apt to judge of the urgency of a demand by the number of letters and copies of resolutions

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS.

which they receive. We have called upon them in the past to oppose the Prime Minister. We lay upon them a more gracious task to-day. We ask them to take up his words and to press upon him that, if the claims of women cannot be denied, then, in the interests not only of abstract justice but of national well-being, their claims must be satisfied. It cannot be unknown to him that there is a general feeling in his own party that some measure of Woman Suffrage is a reform that has been long overdue. This feeling has been intensified by the war. When faced with a difficulty politicians always hope that the *status quo* will last their time, but neither we nor the men who support us can for ever be put off with the plea that the difficulty of deciding upon the particular measure of suffrage makes it impossible to enfranchise women. Mr. Asquith has overcome larger difficulties than this. Let him advance with courage; he will find the country with him in formidable strength.

A Straight Demand: Equal Treatment.

There was no doubt about the demand for equal treatment of men and women at the mass meeting of the postal employees, which packed the London Pavilion from floor to ceiling last Sunday night to protest against the Government's action in setting aside the Woodhouse arbitration award as to war bonus owing to the high price of food. "We have got far beyond the stage when men were fools enough to think that women should have less," said Mr. Dubery, and the vast audience cheered him to the echo; they gave the same hearty support to Miss M. C. Bray for her logical statement why women had a right to equality of treatment. If the Postmaster-General or the Prime Minister were present *incognito*, they heard home truths about the Government's breach of faith, and had evidence of the determination to refuse the new arrangement made without consultation or warning. The resolution demanded arbitration again. "Raise your pay roll!" is the Government's ready advice to other employers faced with labour difficulties owing to the rise of food prices. "Practice what you preach!" was the message of the meeting, and it was the woman speaker who declared that the workers must "put a kick into their fight!" They evidently mean to. The women munition workers are also protesting against unequal treatment between men and women as to war bonus. Mr. Montagu, whose recent declaration that women deserved enfranchisement, will do well to take heed and secure justice for the women working under his control.

Woman's Job. Let Women Do It!

During the past week letters have appeared in the Press complaining of the bad cooking of the food served to soldiers in camps in England. It is not known by what method Army cooks are chosen, or if any method is exercised in their choice. We do know, however, that there are many sick victims after Army soup has been served out; that stewed rhubarb is often served in which no grain of sugar has been used; that vegetables are seldom supplied; that meat is frequently uneatable because of its hardness; and that on the rare occasions when puddings have been made a cap has been sent round to soldiers in certain camps for tips for these obliging Army cooks! Almost at the beginning of the war the Women's Freedom League pointed out that "cooking" was the staple industry of "women in the home," and that women, if employed as cooks by the Government, would do infinitely better work for the British Army and for the nation generally than the men Army cooks. Women, too, would make far better buyers of food than men.

THEY SUPPORT US!

BRANCH NOTES

Croydon. Office: 32a, The Arcade, High-street.

A small but satisfactory jumble sale was held on October 2. Will members and friends please save all useful articles for our next sale, to be held later in the autumn? Owing to a wet afternoon, the sewing party was not well attended; the next one will be held at 9, Morland-avenue, on October 20.

Edinburgh.—Suffrage Shop, 90, Lothian-road.

On Saturday afternoon a very well-attended "At Home" in the Suffrage Shop was addressed by Mrs. Despard, our winter's work being thus inaugurated under the best possible auspices. Our President's words of wisdom and encouragement were greatly appreciated. We had also at this meeting the great pleasure of welcoming back, after a year's absence, our hon. secretary, Miss Jack, and of congratulating her on her safe return from a visit to India. Besides the ordinary collection, a special collection was taken in aid of the jumble sale being held by the Northern Men's Federation, and a sum of over 30s. was realised. Councillor Drummond thanked the League on behalf of the Federation, and assured us of the Northern Men's determination to carry on the fight until the vote is won. Tea was served by Miss Nannie McLaren and helpers. Similar Saturday afternoon "At Homes" will be held monthly during the winter, in addition to occasional Wednesday evening meetings.

Glasgow Suffrage Shop, 212, Bath Street.

A very large open-air meeting was addressed by Miss Eunice Murray, who spoke on the attitude of the Glasgow Corporation towards women tramcar workers. The following resolution was passed with enthusiasm: "This meeting protests against any differentiation in the pay of the employees of the Glasgow Tramway cars. Men and women doing the same work should receive the same pay. It further demands the vote for women upon the same terms as given to men, it being recognised that the vote is the only weapon with which to safeguard women's interests." The Vote and pamphlets were sold out.

The monthly branch meeting was held on October 5, when Miss Strang, of the Agricultural College, gave an interesting address on "Women on the Land." Earlier in the same evening the Council met to discuss business. It was agreed to hold a large public meeting in November or early in December.

Reading.

The opening meeting of the winter session will be held on Thursday, October 19, 7.30 p.m., at the Recreation Club, Oxford-road. The speakers will be Miss Anna Munro (branch president) and Miss Eunice Murray. An entertaining programme is being arranged by Mrs. Stanley Justins. Light refreshments will be provided and a collection taken. Members are asked to make this meeting widely known. The jumble sale is unavoidably postponed for a short time. Will members and friends meanwhile collect all the goods they can and keep until further notice, or send to Mrs. Penrose, 100, Hamilton-road, who will also be glad of names of further helpers.

Swansea.

A branch meeting was held on October 4 at 9, Sketty-road, by kind permission of Mrs. Hutton, who presided. As the date of the Green, White and Gold Fair has been fixed for November 24 and 25, it was decided that members should be asked to send their contributions by November 10 to Miss Kirkland, 104, Walter-road, who has kindly volunteered to take charge of all parcels. Miss Holmes asks that all members who have not paid their subscriptions for this year will do so as soon as possible.

The Despard Arms.

Our grateful thanks to all who sent parcels for the jumble sale and to those who came to help. We are glad to report good success and a demand for "More!" We also make an urgent appeal for more helpers in the evenings from 7 to 10 o'clock and two half-days a week, probably Mondays and Saturdays, when our manageress and waitress have their "half-days off," according to strict regulations of the L.C.C. We are glad to give helpers their meals while on duty, and hope we may soon have a list of "steadfasts" for each day in the week. Bedroom furniture is still badly needed. Who will give us a big war map? Our warmest thanks to Miss Eunice Murray for most useful table and bed linen, and to Mrs. Fisher for flowers.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FRANCHISE CLUB,
9, Grafton St., Piccadilly, W. FOR MEN & WOMEN.
Subscription: One Guinea per annum from date of Entrance (Irish, Scottish, and Foreign Members, 10/6).
Weekly LECTURES and MEETINGS.
VALUABLE LENDING AND REFERENCE LIBRARY of English and Foreign Books free to Members. Non-members, 5/6 per annum.
EXCELLENT Catering. Luncheons & Dinners from 1/-
All Particulars—Secretary. Tel.: MAYFAIR 3932.

The nation spends money without stint on the food of the Army in training at home, but we are convinced that this army gets much less than half the money value of it because of the bad cooking of the food supplied. Thousands of pounds are spent weekly by people, most of them in poor circumstances, in sending parcels of food to our men in the camps at home. This, with the present high prices of necessities, often means stinting the women and children at home to supplement the home army rations. Such extra expense to those who can ill afford it should be quite unnecessary, considering the amount spent by the Government on Army provisions, and would certainly not be required if women were given the control of the catering for the Army at home, as has been proved in cases where women have been appointed to do this work. Testimony is borne to the economy and variety which have resulted, and to the decreasing number of men in hospital.

WOMEN IN WAR TIME.

Bank Manager.

The first woman bank manager has been appointed in London to a branch of the London City and Midland Bank. The innovation has been made by Sir Edward Holden. The new manager has been in training for some time for the intricate work and special knowledge required. Between thirty and forty women are now being trained in readiness for further demands. "Most banking institutions which have tried women in any department are agreed that for accuracy, willingness, and attention to duty, they have undermined the 'citadel' of men," is the opinion given at the headquarters of the London City and Midland Bank.

V.C. Handed to Widow.

An unusual feature of the investiture held by the King at Buckingham Palace last Saturday was the appearance of Mrs. Green, widow of Captain John Lewis Green, R.A.M.C., to receive the V.C. awarded to her late husband. The King expressed deep sympathy for her loss, and highly commended the Captain's gallantry.

Women's Freedom League Settlement, 1, Everett-street, Nine Elms, S.W.

Grateful thanks to Mrs. Sharer Brooks and Mrs. Lewis for a parcel of nice and neatly-mended clothing; also to Miss Eunice Murray for some much-needed sheets, towels, etc.; Miss Powell, two pieces of linoleum; Miss Weeks, 5s.; Miss Riggall, 1s.; Mrs. Norgate, 2s. for milk depot; Mrs. Delbanco, 1s. for Boy Scouts (rent of playground); Mrs. Presbury, bread; Miss Alexander, cups and saucers; Mrs. Delbanco, some lengths of printed muslin. We are still in need of bath-towels; will each reader please think again whether she cannot procure us some somehow? Bathing five children and drying them all with one towel is not easy or satisfactory! We see with much gratitude that the Clapham Branch are planning a whist drive after Christmas, part proceeds to be devoted to the Settlement. With such a good object the evening is sure to be a success, and we suggest to other branches that they should follow suit.

The Flag Flying at Oswestry.

An open-air meeting was held here on Saturday; the speaker was Miss Dorothy Evans, and Miss Alix Clark presided. The weather was most unfavourable, and consequently the attendance was not so large as we had hoped, though local members of the Women's Co-operative Guild supported us loyally, in spite of the rain. Over 100 Votes were sold and a collection taken. This is a splendid field for propaganda, as we have over 30,000 troops in the district. Will members living within possible reach of Oswestry correspond at once with Mrs. Winifred Giles, c/o Captain Giles, W. Lanes. Divl. Cyclist Company, Park Hall Camp, Oswestry, as there is need of much spade work, such as Vote-selling and canvassing to make our campaign here a success. Will Chester and Montgomery members please note that we are not very far from them, and a few hours of their time any day of the week would be a great help to us?

SEE OUR SALE AND EXCHANGE, PAGE 1212.

FRIDAY,
OCT. 13,
1916.

THE VOTE

ONE
PENNY
WEEKLY.

Organ of the Women's Freedom League.

HAND-WOVEN MATERIALS MADE IN THE DAUNTLESS HALL WORK-ROOM. Artistic Dress Fabrics

In Linen, Cotton, Wool, &c. Send for price list, or 2s. for sample Towel, to help the Women Workers, or call and see the goods at
The Alston Studio, 8, New Bond Street, W.
Children's Jumpers and Frocks from 6s. Sports Coats from 13s. 6d. Lessons in SPINNING and WEAVING given. Terms on application. Free demonstrations every Tuesday from 11.30 to 1 p.m.

Help BRITISH Industries by Drinking SALUTARIS WATER

WHOLESAME & DELICIOUS. **AERATED OR STILL.**
Absolutely free from all impurities. Made with pure distilled water.
Salutaris Water, Ginger Ale, Ginger Beer, Lemonade and Orangelle
(thin slice of orange added makes delicious cup).

Very inexpensive.—Send p.c. for price list to:—

SALUTARIS WATER CO. Ltd., 236 Fulham Rd., London, S.W.

MADAME JARDINE

—
60, Dingwall Road,
CROYDON.
—

makes
**Elegant and ::
Simple Gowns**

From Three Guineas.

ISLINGTON DENTAL SURGERY,

69, UPPER STREET, N.

Mr. CHODWICK BROWN, Surgeon Dentist,

Mr. Fredk. G. Boucher, Assistant Dental Surgeon.
Established 35 Years.

Gas Administered Daily by qualified Medical Man, Fee 7s. 6d. Nurse in attendance. Mechanical Work in all its Branches. Send Postcard for Pamphlet. N.B.—No Showcase at door.
CONSULTATIONS FREE. Telephone: 3795 North.

CLASSIFIED Advertisements are charged:—

1s. 3d. for the first 20 words or under,
6d. for every 12 ,, following.

FOR SALE.

MAUVE Chiffon Taffeta Blouse,
8s. 6d.; Brown Silk ditto, 7s. 11d.;
Blue Silk ditto, 5s. 11d. All well made;
Magyar style.—Mrs. T., c/o "THE
VOTE" Office.

BLUE Crêpe de Chine Frock; 26in.
waist. New. 29s. 6d.

GOOD Black Cloth Embroidered Coat,
lined silk. Worn few times.
Slightly old-fashioned. Suit elderly
lady. 7s.

USEFUL Full-length Black Cloth
Coat. Suit slender lady, 5ft. 3in.
£1 1s. or near offer (new).

GOLD Rope-pattern Neck Chain and
Heart-shaped Locket, to take two
portraits, set one small diamond. 27s.

HANDSOME Stone Marten Muff
and Boa. Heads and tails. £3.

GENTLEMAN'S DRESS SUIT.
Never been worn. Waist 32in.,
inside sleeve 18½in. £3 or offer. Seen
by appointment.—Box 103, "THE
VOTE" Office.

All above articles can be seen at,
or particulars obtained from the Secretary,
"THE VOTE" Office, 144, High
Holborn, W.C.

PIANO-PLAYER by the Simplex,
with rolls. In perfect condition.
£14. Can be seen any evening after 7.
—EDWARDS, 1, Oxonian-street, Lord-
ship-lane, East Dulwich.

OPPOSITE THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

THACKERAY HOTEL

Great Russell Street, LONDON.

COLLOA, 5-6, PATERNOSTER ROW, LONDON, E.C.

Tailor-made

Raincoats,

Travelling Wraps,

and Costumes

at reasonable prices. Suitable for present
and early Autumn wear.

INSURANCE

On all matters appertaining to—

**INSURANCE,
LIFE,
ENDOWMENT,
ANNUITIES, Etc.,**

write "INSURANCE," c/o The Vote Office,
144, High Holborn, W.C.

**THE WOMEN'S FREEDOM
LEAGUE** will hold Public Meet-
ings at the Caxton Hall, Westminster,
every Wednesday afternoon, at 3 o'clock.
October 18: Mr. H. G. Chancellor,
M.P., "The Right of the Soldier," and
Miss Eunice Murray. Chair: Mrs.
Corner. Tea, 4.30, 6d.

MISCELLANEOUS.

**AT THE STRAND IMPERIAL
HOTEL,** opposite Gaiety Theatre,
Strand, London. Absolute Privacy,
Quietude and Refinement. Ladies will
find the freshest, warmest, daintiest,
coziest quarters. Sumptuous Bed-
room, with h. and c. water fitted,
Breakfast, Bath, Attendance and
Lights, from 6s. En pension, 9s.
For long stays, special terms. Finest
English provisions. — MANAGERESS,
4788 Gerrard.

**64-PAGE BOOK ABOUT HERBS
AND HOW TO USE THEM,** free.
Send for one.—TRIMMELL, The Herbalist,
144, Richmond-rd., Cardiff. Est. 1879.

TO LET.

OPPOSITE MAIDA VALE TUBE.—
Convenient Furnished Flat. Two
rooms, Kitchen. Use of bath. In pri-
vate house. Suit lady workers. Rent
£1 10s week.—Miss Jacob, 173, Ports-
down-road, W.

TO LET, immediately, large airy
Bed-sitting-room, 19ft. by 14½ft.,
two windows, could be curtained to
make two rooms, partly furnished. Ex-
ceptionally good house, road, neigh-
bourhood; two miles from Crystal
Palace. Very quiet, orderly tenant
wanted. 8s. No attendance.—Apply
Box 15, "THE VOTE" Office.

WANTED.

SMALL FURNISHED COTTAGE,
near London, Indoor sanitation.
Gas-stove. Gravel soil. Rent very
moderate. For winter months.—
A. J., c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

TWO SETS Black Fur. Suitable
young ladies in mourning. Must
be quite reasonable price.—Miss A.,
c/o "THE VOTE" Office.

OLD-FASHIONED FENDER, brass
or brass bar.—Miss H., c/o "THE
VOTE" Office.

Well-appointed and commodious **TEMPERANCE HOTEL.**
Passenger Lifts and Bathrooms on every floor, Lounges,
and Spacious Dining, Drawing, Writing, Reading, Billiard
and Smoking Rooms.

Perfect Sanitation, Fireproof Floors, Telephones, Night Porters.
Bedroom, Breakfast, Attendance & Bath, 6/6 per night per person.
Full Tariff and Testimonials on application. Tel.: Museum 1230 (2 lines.)